GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3516
ANSWERED ON:23.12.2008
GUIDELINES FOR CONSTRUCTIONS
Sugavanam Shri E.G.

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government/National Disaster Management Authority has issued new earthquake guidelines for constructions;

(b) if so,the details thereof;and

(c) the names of cities in the country which are identified as high risks and the steps taken by the Government to reduce the impact of short,medium and long term earthquake risks?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS(SHRIMATI RADHIKA V. SELVI)

(a) & (b): Yes,Sir.NDMA have released the National Disaster Management Guidelines for Management of Earthquakes during 2007.These are specific guidelines aimed at ensuring the compliance of the construction of all new structures to the National Building Code 2005, earthquake-resistant building codes and other safety regulations.

These Guidelines consist of three broad sections:(a) the context and approach to the management of earthquakes in India; (b) an outline of the specific Guidelines; and (c) a broad overview of the Disaster Management plans to be prepared by the Central Ministries and Departments, State Governments and other stakeholders.

(c): The names of cities in seismic zone III, IV & V with first level of priority as given in the guidelines are at Annexure.

The guidelines prescribe measures for Central Ministries and Departments and State Governments to prepare disaster management plans having specific components on earthquake risk management.The measures are:-

(i) Earthquake Resistant Construction of New structures;

(ii) Selective Seismic Strengthening & Retrofitting of existing Priority structures and Lifeline structures;

(iii) Regulation and Enforcement;

(iv) Awareness & Preparedness;

(v) Capacity Development (Education, Training, Research & Development, Capacity Building and Documentation);

(vi) Emergency Response.

The Government have initiated the following measures to mitigate the impact of earthquakes:

(i) A National Programme for Capacity Building of Engineers and Architects in Earthquake Risk Management to ensure seismic safe construction by training of structural engineers and architects at reputed institutions is under implementation.

(ii) For improved response planning and for adoption of structural safety measures against the risk of earthquakes, and Unban Earthquakes Vulnerability Reduction Project has been undertaken in 38 cities with a population of 0.5 million or more falling in seismic zone III to V.

(iii) Government has also sent advisories to State Government and Union Territory Administration from time to time to take up various disaster mitigation and preparedness measures including measures relating to earthquake mitigation and preparedness by way of adoption of modern building bye-laws to ensure seismic resistnant construction.

(iv) To inculcate culture of safety,disaster management has been introduced in the school course curriculum. State Governments have also been advised to introduce the same in their respective course curriculum.

Besides these,the Disaster Management Act,2005 has been enacted which stipulates preparation of State Disaster Management Plan by every State having regard to specific guidelines laid down by the NDMA.The State Disaster Management Plan has to inter-

alia,include the measures to be adopted for prevention and mitigation of disasters and the capacity-building and preparedness measures to be taken.